GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1600
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
ASSISTANCE FOR MAKING GANGA POLLUTION FREE
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Supreme Court has issued notice to the Central Pollution Control Board to direct the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Bihar and West Bangal to make Ganga pollution free;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Weather the union Government proposes to give financial aid to these states for making Ganga pollution free; and

(d) If so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) The Supreme Court in WP (C) 3727 of 1985 has issued notices on 7th August 2008 to the respondents including the Central pollution Control Board (CPCB), with respect to the interlocutory Applications No. 380-381 filed by the amicus curiae, for CPCB to interalia exercise its mandatory functions under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to direct the State Pollution Control Boards of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal for prevention of pollution in Ganga.

(C) & (d) For abatement of pollution in Ganga, Ganga Action Plan(GAP) Phase-I was launched as a centrally funded scheme in1985.GAP Phase I was expended to GAP Phase-II,which besides Ganga includes plans for its major tributaries namely, Yamuna, Gomati, Damodar and Mahananda.Pollution abatement works under the GAP at present are implemented on a cost sharing basis between Central and States through Implementing Agencies nominated by the States.

GAP PHASE-I was declared completed in March, 2000 at an expenditure of Rs. 452 crore with the completion of 260 pollution abatement schemes. Under the GAP Phase-II, an expenditure of Rs. 373.58 crore has been incurred so far with the completion of 185 pollution abatement schemes for Ganga (main stem).

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is another Central programme in operation under the Union ministry of Urban Development for supplementing the efforts of the State Governments/ Urban Local Bodies for creation of urban infrastructure including sewerage and sewage treatment on a cost sharing basis in the identified towns including those located on the banks of Ganga.